Legislations of Municipal Administration in Princely State of Mysore, 1862-1947.

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The advent of Britishers to India brought a number of changes in all walks of life. For first hundred years they concentrated their attention on trade and commerce. During these ars the principal aim of the British rule was to loot the economic resources of our country[1].

From 1857 onwards they introduced few reforms in the fields of education, industry, blic administration, constitution and developmental activities. These reforms led to the owth of towns and cities. Leading cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Madras became their ats of administration centres of trade and commerce and, above all, were the headquarters of my, navy and airforce[2]. Hence it was imperative for them to provide all civic amenities to the ople of these metropolitan cities, for a majority of the British officers was camped in those ies. This concept of providing basic facilities forced them to introduce municipal administration system for better organisation and management of towns and cities in India. Thus the unicipalities were set up for the first time by the Britishers at Presidency towns. They did not other to set up this institution in rest of the cities and towns of India[3].

But in due course the economic condition of the British government forced them to xtend this facility to the rest of the country. In 1860 as many as 19 provinces had deficit udget. So the government felt it difficult to spare money for roads, education, health, and ther services of which the people were in need. It was then that the members of the Viceroy's ouncil like Samuel Laing who was incharge of finance department put forward the theory that ocal services should be financed out of local taxation. Then the British government decided to et up municipal institutions in other towns and cities of India[4].

egislations of Municipal Administration:

Act X of 1842 was the first legislation introduced in India for enabling the inhabitants of ny place of public resort or residence, under the Presidency of Fort William not within the own of Calcutta to make better provision for purposes connected with public health and convenience; but the said Act has proved ineffectual for the purposes and it was expedient to amend he provisions there of and to extend the like powers to the inhabitants of towns in other presidencies under the government of the East Indian Company. This Act was repealed on 21st une 1850 and the Second Act No. XXVI of 1850 as come into force from the same day[5].

Though aimed for Calcutta this Act was also applicable to the entire country. Based on his Act, efforts were taken to introduce municipalities in all provinces including the princely tate of Mysore. Thus for the first time three municipalities were set up at Bangalore town, Bangalore Cantonment and Myssore on an experimental basis in 1862. By 1868 this institution came into existence in all eight district headquarters (i.e. Tumkur, Shimoga, Chitradurga, olar, Hassan and Kadur). Upto 1870 there were no Acts introduced by the State for the dministration of municipal institutions. But the administration was carried out according to he Act No. XIV of 1856 and XVIII of 1864.[6]

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For the first time, the Bangalore Municipal Regulation of 1871 was introduced in Ap 1871 exclusively for the use of Bangalore city and Cantonment municipalities. This regulati had 250 sections, which dealt with the (Section 1 to 2) meaning of principal terms, compositi of municipal Commissioners for the town of Bangalore, appointment of ex-office members a powers and responsibilities of Municipal Commissioners (Section 3 to 8). Other sections i clude Municipal funds (Section 9&10), appointment of Municipal Officers, their powers, a pointment of other Executive Officers (Section 11 to 17), transacting business of the munic palities (Section 18 to 27), estimates of income and expenditure and audit of municipaliti (Section 28-33), modes of collection of several taxes (Section 34, to 77), general conservanc (Section 94 to 178), lighting, water supply, registration of births and deaths and power to ma bye-laws[7].

This code was amended in 1888. According to the Regulation III of 1888 the code 1871 was extended to the Mysore City Municipality. Thus this amendment provided an oppo tunity for the systematic development of that institution also. This was once again amended 1890 (I of 1890 appointment of an Executive Officer, 1899 (VII of 1899). In fact ,this act w in force upto 1906.[8]

However ,this legislation was not extended to the remaining municipalizes of the sta They were administered according to the rules framed by the District Commissioners int duced now and then.

The Mysore Municipal Regulation No.VII of 1906 was introduced to overcome the merits of 1871 regulation. This regulation was divided into 13 chapters[9]. The first chapter de with the preliminary aspects, the second chapter dealt with Municipal Council, appointmen Municipal Commissioners, general qualifications for a Councillor, elections of the Presi and Vice-President, the third with the conduct of business. The subsequent chapters dealt w municipal property, funds, recovery of municipal claims, municipal powers, offences, pros tions, suits and power of police, municipal accounts control and special provisions for municipal councils[10]. This Act was in force upto 1933 and amended fourteen times.[11] Thus the first time, all the municipalities in the state were administered uniformly by one regulat The major defect in this act was an indifferent collection of various taxes at all levels (i.e. major and minor town municipalities).

Realising the various defects of the 1906 regulation, the government decided to set Committee under the chairmanship of K. Mathan Rao. After thorough study the Comm recommended for three separate regulations for city, town and minor municipalities. these regulations came into force on 1st August 1933.[12] The Regulation VII of 1933, VI 1933, IX of 1933 were introduced respectively for the administration of city, minor and municipalities respectively. The division was made on the basis of population. These were in force upto 1947.[13]

Thus these regulations were introduced from time to time for better organisatio administration of municipal bodies. These legislations enabled the systematic growth o nicipal administration in the Princely State of Mysore.

Notes and References

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6. Ibid.
7. The Bangalore Town Municipal Regulation of 1871.
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13. Mysore Code for the year 1933.